Ministry of Advanced Education

Plan for 2014-15

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Government of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education's Plan for 2014-15. This document outlines how our Ministry's actions support Government's overall direction and Budget for the current fiscal year.

The Government's Direction and Budget for 2014-15 are built on the principle of *'Steady Growth'*, with a focus on supporting ongoing economic growth and increasing shared prosperity.

The Ministry of Advanced Education is continuing to make vital investments in Saskatchewan students as well as our post-secondary and skill training institutions; the Ministry will also keep providing leadership, and resources, to support our distinctive advanced education system. The system focuses increasingly on responding to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy, or more simply, aims to support student success and aid in their transition from 'learning to earning'.

I accept responsibility for furthering Government's commitments, values and principles while ensuring the Ministry of Advanced Education is managed with integrity, professionalism and a commitment to partnerships.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2014-15 Annual Report.

Government of Saskatchewan

Response to Government Direction

The Government is committed to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

In October 2013, the first progress report on the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* was released. Saskatchewan's growth is strong and steady. As Saskatchewan continues to move forward, the Government will support growth in 2014-15 through investing in people and needed infrastructure, encouraging economic growth, and through sound policy and financial decisions.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services to these priorities and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2014-15 annual reports. This supports Government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality advanced education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy

Strategy

Support growth by ensuring an educated and skilled workforce to meet existing and future labour market demand

Key Actions

- Encourage the province's post-secondary and skills training institutions, including our Aboriginal partners, to provide education, training and development programs which are aligned with labour market needs across all sectors of the provincial economy.
- Continue support for the expansion of training seats for health professionals by adding new training seats for the nurse practitioner and perioperative nursing programs as well as for medical undergraduate programs and residencies.
- Deliver on the Ministry's obligations under the New West Partnership by sharing information and fostering greater collaboration among governments and post-secondary institutions (the New West Partnership is an accord between the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan that creates Canada's largest, barrier-free, interprovincial market).
- Support students to engage internationally by:
  - working with post-secondary institutions to encourage the study of international languages in business schools;
  - attracting and retaining increasing numbers of international students through implementation of a new International Education Strategy; and
  - implementing a framework to assess the capacity and eligibility of post-secondary educational institutions to host international students.

Strategy

Support growth by funding research and innovation

Key Actions

- Support research and innovation by continuing to invest in key partners, including: the International Vaccine Center (InterVac); Canadian Light Source synchrotron; and the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Water Security.
- Support strategic science and technology initiatives connected to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions: these include, but are not limited to vital sectors including; clean coal and carbon capture projects; food security; nuclear innovation; zoonotic diseases; mining and sustainable development.

Strategy

Support students to enroll, attend and succeed in advanced education

Key Actions

- Support affordability and accessibility for Saskatchewan students within our well-respected post-secondary education system by:
  - supporting post-secondary students with financial needs by sustaining student loans and grants;

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridges

- providing grants for individuals with student loans who have high financial and/or special needs;
- supporting the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship;
- delivering the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship for all new Saskatchewan grade 12 or General Education Development (GED) graduates who enroll in a provincial post-secondary institution; and
- supporting the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Educational Savings (SAGES).

- Expand post-secondary co-op and career development opportunities.
- Fully implement the Graduate Retention Program.

Strategy

Support First Nations and Métis students' participation and success in advanced education

Key Actions

- Continue implementing Government's response to the recommendations from the Joint Task Force on First Nations and Métis Education and Employment.
- Encourage a range of actions to increase the participation and success of First Nations and Métis students in advanced education.
- Implement the accepted recommendations from the evaluation of the Northern Teachers Education Program (NORTEP)/ Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC).

Strategy

Support the Advanced Education sector by providing leadership and resources

Key Actions

- Continue implementation of the Action Plan on Accountability and Governance for the post-secondary sector.
- Initiate processes to modernize Private Vocational School regulations.
- Provide capital funding for the Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College.
- Continue to support Southeast Regional College – Weyburn Project.
- Continue, through the Action Team on Growth and Sustainability, to implement the plan for Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and the universities to demonstrate financial efficiencies.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to increase their use of Lean methodologies.

Strategy

Support the Ministry to be responsive and responsible

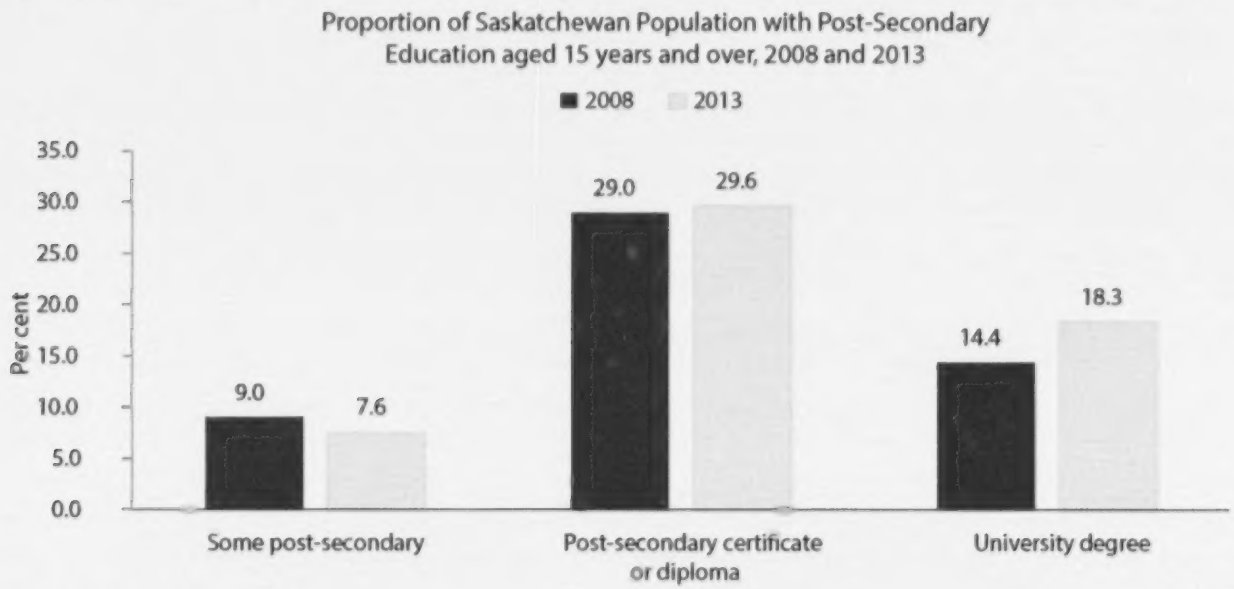
Key Actions

- Complete development and implement the new accountability framework for the Ministry.
- Continue to refresh and implement the Ministry Workforce Plan.
- Continue to embed Enterprise Risk Management processes across the Ministry.
- Continue to implement the Ministry's core review schedule and to implement the approved action plans resulting from the core reviews on both the Student Aid Fund programs and the Graduate Retention Program (GRP).
- Support Public Service Renewal by continuing implementation of government-wide and ministry initiatives.

Performance Measures

Measure

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 Years and Over and Labour Force Attachment by Credential



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Employment Rate (%) by Education Level, Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Saskatchewan, 2008 to 2013

Education level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total, all education levels	**66.8**	**66.7**	**66.3**	**65.7**	**66.2**	**67.2**
Not completed high school	42.5	40.7	40.3	40.2	40.2	40.2
High school graduate	73.1	72.5	71.9	70.2	70.7	70.5
Some post-secondary	70.0	69.1	67.9	67.0	66.9	70.0
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	75.5	75.0	74.4	74.1	73.7	74.0
University degree	79.3	80.9	79.6	78.4	79.7	80.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Measure Description

These indicators reflect the vital importance of educational attainment and the transition as well as connection between 'learning to earning'; quite simply, most employment opportunities require increasing levels of skill training and education. Studies show that individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, higher rates of employment, shorter periods of unemployment and better health outcomes. Education is also a key component of productivity growth, which in turn results in a higher standard of living, and supports the Government goal of growth and opportunity.

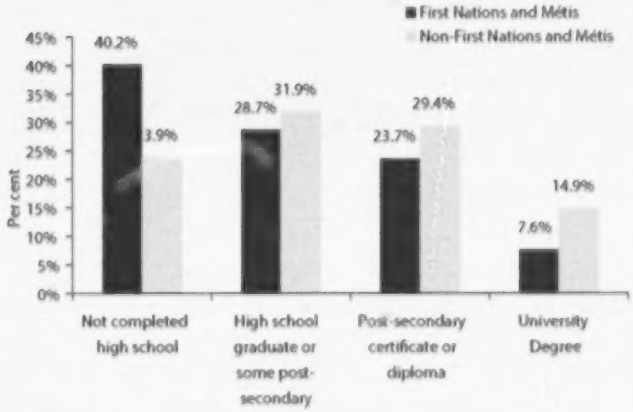
The post-secondary educational attainment measure identifies the educational attainment of the Province's population aged 15 years and older. Data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey indicate that the educational attainment of Saskatchewan's labour force has risen between 2008 and 2013.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Jones Peak, near Eastend

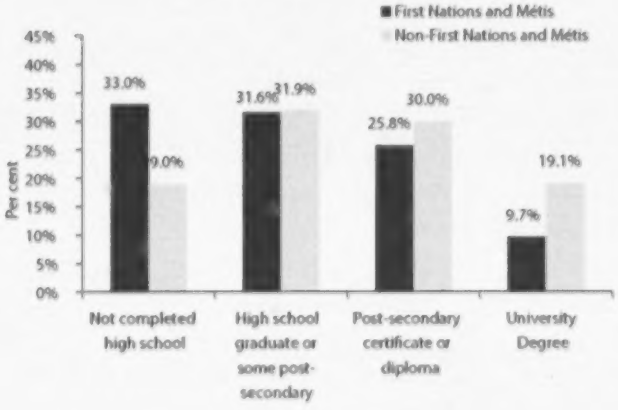
Measure

Educational Attainment of First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis Populations Aged 15 Years and Over

Educational Attainment of First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis populations, 15 years and over, 2008



Educational Attainment of First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis populations, 15 years and over, 2013



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

Note: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey is a reliable source of annual Aboriginal labour force characteristics, but includes information for off-reserve First Nations only. The educational attainment of the non-Aboriginal population is based on a larger sample size and therefore has a higher degree of statistical reliability than that for First Nations and Métis people.

Measure Description

Higher educational attainment is an important factor in gaining and maintaining employment and supports Government's goal of growth and opportunity. Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, shorter periods of unemployment and better health outcomes. However, because education levels may change slowly over time, data should be analyzed over a period of time. Despite increases in post-secondary enrollments, statistically, the First Nations and Métis population continues to lag behind the non-First Nations and Métis population in the completion of high school and post-secondary education. With a young and growing First Nations and Métis population, it is important that supports continue to be developed, through partnership and collaboration to help ensure increasing numbers of First Nations and Métis youth complete high school, are successfully in post-secondary education and enter the workforce.

Both federal and provincial governments – as well as employers and community-based organizations - can influence this measure by working with our post-secondary partners and students to help address factors impacting the education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. These include improving basic skills, establishing links to employment and providing needed supports.

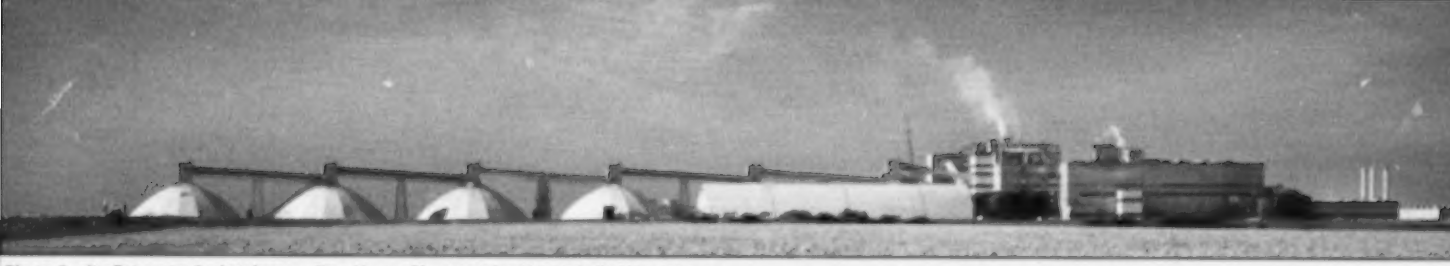
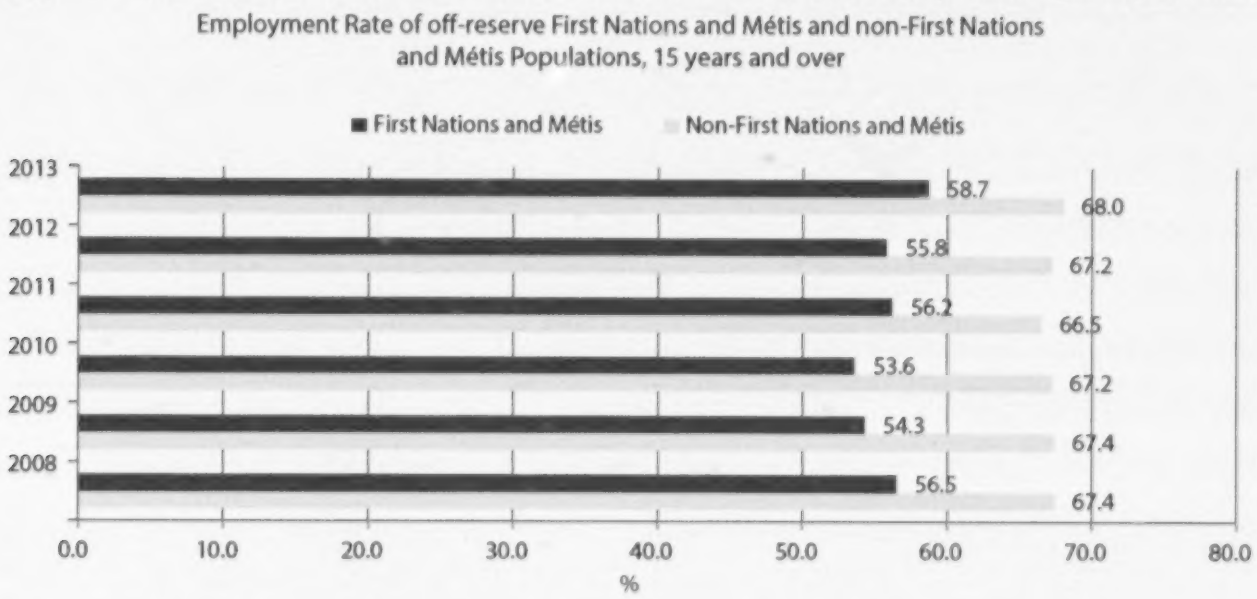


Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

Measure

Employment rate of off-reserve First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis populations aged 15 years and over



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, special data tabulation.

Measure Description

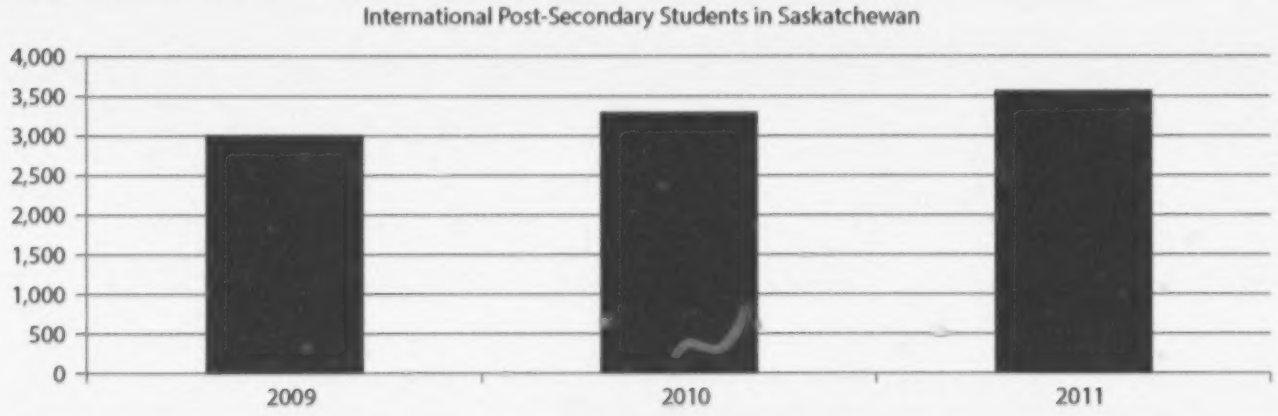
Increased First Nations and Métis employment is important to achieve Government's goal of growth and opportunity. Between 2008 and 2013, the gap in employment rates between First Nations and Métis people and non-First Nations and Métis people got smaller, but the gap still remains an issue. One of the factors that results in lower First Nations and Métis employment rates is their level of educational attainment.

Both federal and provincial governments – as well as employees and community-based organizations – can influence this measure by working with our post-secondary partners and students to help address factors impacting the education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. These include improving basic skills, establishing links to employment and providing needed supports.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Jones Peak, near Eastend

Measure

Number of International Students Studying in Saskatchewan



Source: Citizen and Immigration Canada database, Table 243 (Foreign students present on December 1st by level of study.) Figures include only university and trade students, not those in language training.

Measure Description

This indicator reflects the change in the number of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan. In the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth, the Government has committed to attracting and retaining more international students as part of the province's international immigration strategy. Increasing the number of international students that come and stay in the province will broaden global perspectives of domestic students and expand the province's potential pool of highly skilled and educated immigrants. Over the past five years, the Province has seen a steady increase in the number of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan.

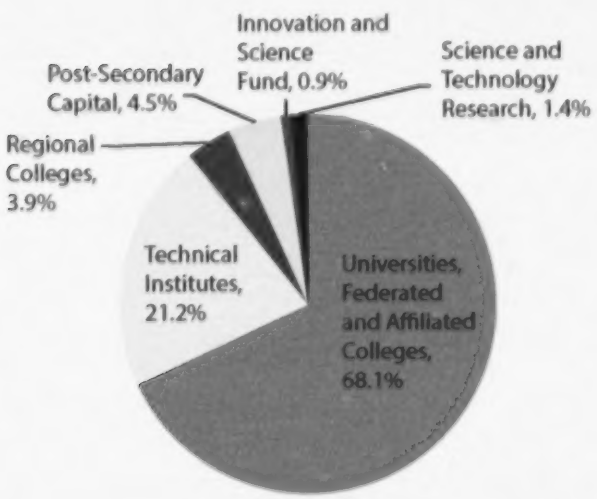
The goal is to increase the number of international post-secondary students studying in Saskatchewan by at least 50 per cent by 2020. Government can influence this measure by working with its post-secondary education partners to address the factors affecting the attraction and retention of international students to the Province.

Financial Summary

2014-15 Estimates	(In thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	14,939
Post Secondary Education	720,588
Student Supports	81,958
Total Appropriation	**817,485**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	-
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	310
Total Expense	**817,795**
FTE Staff Compliment	**143.9**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

AE Post-Secondary Education ($718 million)


Innovation and Science Fund, 0.9%
Science and Technology Research, 1.4%
Post-Secondary Capital, 4.5%
Regional Colleges, 3.9%
Technical Institutes, 21.2%
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges, 68.1%

AE Budget ($818 million)

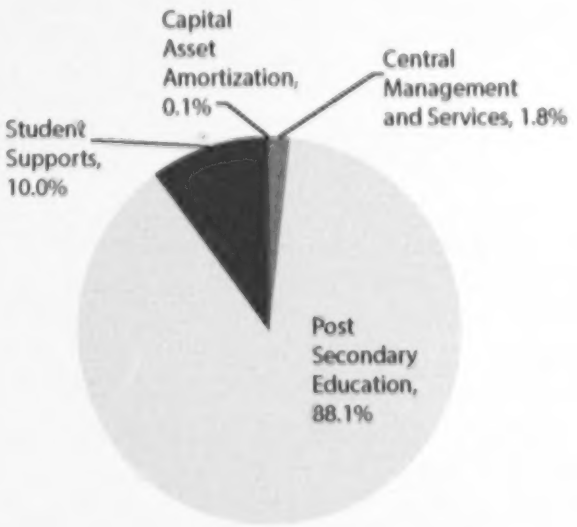


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Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Vicki East, Rafferty Reservoir

Highlights

Overall 2014-15 budget of $817.8 million, an increase of 3.7%.

- $717.6 million in funding to post-secondary institutions, an increase of almost $24 million to support operational increases and several key investments at post-secondary institutions.
- $12.3 million increase in operating funds, representing a 2.0% increase for universities, federated and affiliated colleges, technical institutes and regional colleges.
- $19.8 million direct investment in First Nations and Métis education.
- $134.0 million in direct student supports, up $16.6 million or an increase of 14.1% from last year. This includes:
  - $82.0 million in refundable and non-refundable tax credits for the Graduate Retention Program, an increase of $18.1 million or 28.3%;
  - $7.0 million for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship;
  - $7.5 million in funding for the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings;
  - $32.5 million for the Student Aid Fund to support grants and bursaries through the student loans program; and
  - $5.0 million for other scholarships.
- $32.6 million in capital investments to support post-secondary infrastructure including:
  - $6.5 million for the Health Sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan.
  - $4.5 million to support the construction of the Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College;
  - $1.0 million to support the ongoing construction of the Southeast Regional College; and,
  - $20.6 million for capital improvements, repairs and equipment at post-secondary institutions.
- $5.0 million in operating funding for the Health Sciences facility;
- $2.6 million increase in funds to fully implement the physician training seat expansion as well as the addition of five more nurse practitioner seats.
- Over $17 million for Canadian Light Source, International Vaccine Centre, Water Research Chair and other initiatives including $6.3 million from the Innovation and Science Fund.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/ministries/advanced-education for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Over the Hill Orchards*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
Photographer, Charles Melnick	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*

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